

REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was required among the species of Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11 and the species of claims 10, 11 and 12. The Examiner stated that the eight species are patentably distinct from each other, thereby making restriction proper. Applicants were required to elect one of the species for further prosecution in this application and to list all claims readable on the elected species.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants have provisionally elected the species of invention designated as Fig. 1 and list claims 1-5 as being readable on the elected species. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or allowance of a generic or sub-generic claim.

It is applicants' understanding that upon allowance of a generic or sub-generic claim, the restriction requirement will be withdrawn as to those species readable on an allowed generic or sub-generic claim.

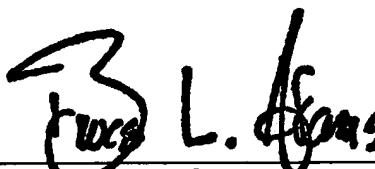


In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS  
Attorneys for Applicants

By:

  
Bruce L. Adams  
Reg. No. 25,386

50 Broadway  
31st Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Donna Riccardulli

Name

Donna Riccardulli

Signature

September 20, 2004

Date